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**LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
DECEMBER 2008**

Production of red meat in **Colorado** during December 2008 totaled 164.3 million pounds, up 11 percent from the same month a year earlier and 10 percent above November 2008. Beef slaughter during December was up 9 percent from a year ago to 187,400 head and the average live weight increased 23 pounds to 1,348. Hog slaughter was placed at 700 head for December 2008, up from 500 head a year earlier. The average live weight of 258 pounds was up 9 pounds from a year earlier. The preliminary total red meat production for all months of 2008 totaled 2.13 billion pounds, up 13 percent from the 1.89 billion pounds produced during 2007.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.16 billion pounds in December, up 3 percent from the 4.06 billion pounds produced in December 2007. Beef production, at 2.08 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, up 1 percent from December 2007. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 1,303 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.3 million pounds, 28 percent above December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 94,100 head, up 54 percent from December 2007. The average live weight was down 43 pounds from last year, at 245 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.05 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 10.14 million head, up 5 percent from December 2007. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 270 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.4 million pounds, was up slightly from December 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 230,800 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, down 1 pound from December a year ago.

January to December 2008 commercial red meat production was 50.2 billion pounds, up 3 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was up 4 percent, pork was up 6 percent from last year, and lamb and

mutton production was down 5 percent.

Red Meat Production Colorado and United States

Area and Species	Dec. 2007	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2008	January-December	
				2007	2008
Million Pounds					
Colorado:	147.8	149.8	164.3	1887.4	2,133.9
United States:	4,059.9	3,871.7	4,162.7	48,683.8	50,229.7
Beef	2,061.4	1,960.9	2,082.0	26,420.8	26,564.5
Veal	10.4	11.3	13.3	137.2	143.3
Pork	1,972.7	1,886.5	2,052.0	21,942.6	23,348.0
Lamb & Mutton	15.4	12.9	15.4	183.1	174.0

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

**CATTLE INVENTORY
JANUARY 1, 2009**

The January 1, 2009 inventory of all cattle and calves in **Colorado** totaled 2.60 million head, down 150,000 head from January 1, 2008. Beef cows, at 720,000 head, were down 4,000 head from the previous year. Milk cows increased 4,000 head from last year to 130,000 head. Colorado's 2008 calf crop was down 1 percent from 2007 to 780,000.

Other class estimates as of January 1, 2009 and percent changes from 2008 were as follows: Beef replacement heifers 500 pounds and over, down 8 percent from last year to 120,000; milk replacement heifers 500 pounds and over, down 14 percent to 60,000 head; other heifers 500 pounds and over, down 10 percent to 530,000; steers 500 pounds and over, down 13 percent to 770,000; bulls 500 pounds and over, remained steady from 2008 at 50,000; and calves under 500 pounds, up 29 percent to 220,000 head. The total inventory included 1,020,000 head of cattle and calves on feed, which was down 11 percent from January 1, 2008.

All cattle and calves in the **United States** as of January 1, 2009, totaled 94.5 million head, 2 percent below the 96.0 million on January 1, 2008. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 41.0 million, were down 2 percent from the 41.7 million on January 1, 2008. Beef cows, at 31.7 million, were down 2 percent from January 1, 2008. Milk cows, at 9.33 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 2008. Other class estimates on January 1, 2009, and the change from January 1, 2008, are as follows: All heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.6 million, down 1 percent. Beef replacement heifers, 5.53 million, down 2 percent. Milk replacement heifers, 4.41 million, down slightly. Other heifers, 9.65 million, down 1 percent. Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.8 million, down 2 percent. Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.18 million, down 1 percent. Calves under 500 pounds, 14.9 million, down 1 percent. Cattle and calves on feed for

slaughter in all feedlots, 13.9 million, down 7 percent. The combined total of calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds outside of feedlots was 27.5 million, up 1 percent. The 2008 calf crop was estimated at 36.1 million head, down 2 percent from 2007. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 26.3 million, down 1 percent from 2007.

SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 2009

The January 1, 2009 inventory of all sheep and lambs in Colorado totaled 410,000 head, down 2 percent from the 420,000 on hand as of January 1, 2008. The number of breeding sheep and lambs as well as market sheep and lambs decreased 2 percent from last year to 205,000 head. The number of replacement lambs was unchanged from last at 34,000 head. The number of ewes one year old and older decreased 3 percent from last year to 165,000 head. The number of rams one year old and older remained unchanged from last year at 6,000 head. Of the 205,000 head of market sheep and lambs, 2,000 head were market sheep and 203,000 head were market lambs. There were 3,000 lambs weighing less than 65 pounds this year, down 1,000 from a year earlier; 10,000 were in the 65-84 pound weight group, down 12,000 from the previous year; 25,000 weighed 85-105 pounds compared with 41,000 last year; and 165,000 weighed over 105 pounds compared with the 141,000 head in this weight group on January 1, 2008. The 2008 lamb crop, at 210,000 head, was unchanged from the 2007 lamb crop.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2009, totaled 5.75 million head, down 3 percent from 2008. Breeding sheep inventory decreased to 4.25 million head on January 1, 2009, down 4 percent from 4.43 million head on Janry 1, 2008. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.40 million head, were 4 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2009, totaled 1.50 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2008. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total marketings. Twenty-three percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 11 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 21 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, and 39 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 5 percent of total marketings. The 2008 lamb crop of 3.71 million head, was down 5 percent from 2007. The 2008 lambing rate was 105 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2008, down 3 percent from 2007.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES JANUARY 15, 2009

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January, at 137 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 2 points (1.5 percent) from December. The Crop Index is up 8 points (5.4 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 4 points (3.4 percent).

The January All Farm Products Index is 137 percent of its 1990-92 base, up 1.5 percent from the December index but 4.9 percent below the January 2008 index. The January all wheat price, at \$5.90 per bushel, is down 7 cents from December and \$2.06 below January 2008. The corn price, at \$4.15 per bushel, is up 5 cents from last month and 17 cents above January 2008.

The all hay price, at \$136 per ton, is down \$5.00 from December but \$10.00 higher than last January. Sorghum grain, at \$5.29 per cwt, is 16 cents above December but \$2.11 below January last year. The soybean price, at \$9.92 per bushel, increased 68 cents from December but is 3 cents below January 2008. The all potato price, at \$9.49 per cwt, is 13 cents below December but up \$2.16 from last January. The all dry bean price, at \$32.30 per cwt, is down \$2.20 from the previous month but \$4.90 above January 2008.

The January Livestock and Products Index, at 115, is 3.4 percent below last month and down 11 percent from January 2008. Compared with a year ago, prices are lower for milk, cattle, eggs, calves, and turkeys. Prices for broilers and hogs are up from last year.

The January hog price, at \$41.90 per cwt, is unchanged from December but \$4.70 higher than a year ago. The January beef cattle price of \$80.50 per cwt is up 70 cents from last month but \$6.80 lower than January 2008. The January all milk price of \$13.80 per cwt declined \$1.80 from last month and \$6.70 from January 2008. The fluid grade milk price is down \$1.80 and the manufacturing grade milk price declined \$2.70 from the previous month.

Prices Received and Paid Summary United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2007		2008		2009	
	Dec.	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.
	Percent					
Prices Received	135	144	135	137	135	137
Prices Paid.....	175	169	175	175	175	175
Ratio 1/.....	77	85	777	78	777	78

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid.

Compared with January 2008, all **Colorado** crop prices averaged higher except wheat and alfalfa hay. Prices for all livestock items averaged lower than a year ago. Mid-January 2009 wheat, at \$5.32 per bushel, decreased 95 cents from the previous month and was \$2.07 below January a year ago. Corn, at \$4.03 per bushel, averaged 18 cents below December 2008 but was 12 cents ahead of January 2008. The mid-January potato price, at \$13.80 per cwt, was down 40 cents from last month but increased \$4.90 per cwt from January a year ago. Dry beans prices increased \$4.20 per cwt from December to \$41.00 per cwt and was \$10.20 per cwt higher than January last year. Alfalfa hay, at \$170.00 per ton, was unchanged from last month but \$30.00 above January 2008. The other hay price, at \$130.00 per ton, was unchanged from last month but was \$5.00 above the January 2008 price. The mid-January steer and heifer price, at \$90.00 per cwt, was up \$2.70 from last month but down \$10.00 from a year ago. Cow prices increased \$2.50 per cwt from December to \$43.00 per cwt but averaged \$3.90 per cwt below January 2008. The mid-January 2009 calf price increased \$4.50 from last month to \$103.00 per cwt but was down \$13.00 from a year ago. The January all milk price of \$14.30 per cwt was down \$1.60 from last month and decreased \$6.00 from a year ago.

Average Prices Received By Farmers ^{1/}

Item	Unit	Colorado		
		Jan. 2008	Dec. 2008	Jan. 2009
Dollars				
Crops				
Wheat	Bu.	7.39	6.27	5.32
Corn	Bu.	3.91	4.21	4.03
Barley (All).....	Bu.	2/	2/	2/
Potatoes	Cwt	8.90	14.20	13.80
Dry edible beans.....	Cwt	30.80	36.80	41.00
Alfalfa hay (baled).....	Ton	140.00	170.00	170.00
Other hay (baled).....	Ton	125.00	130.00	130.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle.....	Cwt	98.90	86.40	89.10
Steers & heifers	Cwt	100.00	87.30	90.00
Cows.....	Cwt	46.90	40.50	43.00
Calves.....	Cwt	116.00	98.50	103.00
Sheep.....	Cwt	30.00	32.00	3/
Lambs.....	Cwt	100.00	100.00	3/
Milk sold to plants.....	Cwt	20.30	15.90	14.30
United States				
Dollars				
Crops				
Wheat	Bu.	7.96	5.97	5.90
Corn.....	Bu.	3.98	4.10	4.15
Soybeans	Bu.	9.95	9.24	9.92
Barley (All).....	Bu.	4.35	5.37	5.12
Barley (Feed).....	Bu.	4.89	3.04	2.72
Sorghum.....	Cwt	7.40	5.13	5.29
Potatoes	Cwt	7.33	9.62	9.49
Dry edible beans.....	Cwt	27.40	34.50	32.30
Alfalfa hay (baled).....	Ton	136.00	155.00	149.00
Other hay (baled).....	Ton	111.00	113.00	110.00
Onions.....	Cwt	4.13	13.40	9.10
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle.....	Cwt	87.30	79.80	80.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt	93.40	85.60	86.30
Cows.....	Cwt	46.30	40.40	42.20
Calves.....	Cwt	117.00	100.00	105.00
Sheep.....	Cwt	31.90	31.70	3/
Lambs.....	Cwt	97.50	100.00	3/
Hogs.....	Cwt	37.20	41.90	41.90
Milk sold to plants.....	Cwt	20.50	15.60	13.80
Broilers.....	Lb.	0.440	0.480	0.480

^{1/} Prices received by farmers refer to prices at the point of first sale out of farmer's hands and should not be confused with prices of specific grades or classes of a particular agricultural commodity. They do not include direct government payments.

^{2/} Insufficient sales to establish a price. ^{3/} Mid-month prices discontinued.

WOOL PRODUCTION – 2008

Wool production in Colorado during 2008 totaled 2.6 million pounds, down from 2.7 million pounds produced in 2007. The number of all sheep and lambs shorn, at 380,000 head, was down 5 percent from 400,000 head shorn a year earlier. The value of wool production for 2008 totaled \$2.91 million, up 8 percent from a year earlier as producers received \$1.12 per pound of wool sold compared with \$1.00 per pound the previous year.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2008 was 33.0 million pounds, down 5 percent from 2007. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 4.43 million head, down 5 percent from 2007. The average price paid for wool sold in 2008 was \$0.99

per pound for a total value of 32.5 million dollars, up 7 percent from 30.2 million dollars in 2007.

GRAZING FEE RATES 2008

Colorado monthly grazing fee rates for private, non-irrigated grazing land in 2008 decreased from last year for the animal unit per month (AUM) and cow-calf basis, with AUM averaging \$14.50 per month and cow-calf rates averaging \$16.00 per month. On a per head basis, the average price increased slightly from 2007 to \$14.50 per month.

Grazing fee rates for the 17 Western States listed in the table averaged higher in all three categories from the previous year. The animal unit rate rose 20 cents to \$14.70 per month, an increase of 1 percent from 2007. Cow-calf rates increased 10 cents to \$17.00 representing an increase of 1 percent from last year. The per head rate for 2008 increased 80 cents to \$15.60.

Grazing Fee Rates for Cattle by Selected States and Regions

State	Survey Average Rates ^{1/}					
	Animal Unit ^{2/}		Cow-Calf		Per Head	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Dollars per Month		Dollars per Month		Dollars per Month	
AZ.....	8.00	8.50	7/	7/	10.00	11.00
CA	16.50	17.80	21.50	22.10	17.30	18.50
CO	15.00	14.50	16.70	16.00	15.10	14.50
ID	13.80	12.60	16.50	16.30	14.60	14.10
KS	14.00	14.00	17.00	17.00	14.00	13.50
MT	17.80	18.10	20.10	20.00	19.20	19.80
NE	23.00	25.00	27.50	29.70	25.00	28.00
NV.....	13.00	13.50	14.00	14.70	13.50	14.00
NM.....	11.00	11.00	13.00	11.50	12.00	12.00
ND.....	16.00	15.80	17.50	17.80	15.50	15.50
OK.....	9.00	9.00	11.00	13.00	9.00	9.50
OR.....	14.10	14.00	17.00	16.80	13.00	14.60
SD	21.00	21.70	25.20	25.20	23.00	23.00
TX.....	10.70	10.70	11.80	11.00	10.00	11.00
UT.....	12.90	13.00	14.60	15.90	14.20	15.50
WA.....	12.10	11.50	13.70	13.40	12.20	14.10
WY.....	15.40	15.70	17.90	18.40	16.10	16.40
17-State ^{3/}	14.50	14.70	16.90	17.00	14.80	15.60
16-State ^{4/}	15.90	16.20	18.80	19.30	16.60	17.20
11-State ^{5/}	14.90	15.00	17.40	17.40	15.60	16.20
9-State ^{6/}	14.30	14.50	16.60	16.80	14.50	15.20

^{1/} The average rates are estimates based on survey indications of monthly lease rates for private, non-irrigated grazing land from the January Cattle Survey.

^{2/} Includes animal unit plus cow-calf rates. Cow-calf rate converted to animal unit (AUM) using (1 aum=cow-calf *0.833).

^{3/} 17 Western States:All States listed.

^{4/} 16 Western States:All States except Texas.

^{5/} 11 Western States: AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, and WY.

^{6/} 9 Great Plains States: CO, KS, NE, NM, ND, OK, SD, TX, and WY.

^{7/} Insufficient data.

COLD STORAGE - DECEMBER 31, 2008

United States frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on December 31, 2008 were greater than year earlier levels for turkey, pork, cheese, and chicken. Butter stocks were down 1 percent from last month and down 23 percent from a year ago. Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 4 percent from the previous month and up 10 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 7 percent from the previous month and up 20 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 54 percent from last month but down 6 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on December 31, 2008 were down 1 percent from the previous month but up 16 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 6 percent from the previous month but up 3 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 10 percent from last month and up 53 percent from December 31, 2007.

Stocks in Storage, United States

Commodity	Dec. 31, 2007	Nov 30, 2008	Dec 31, 2008
1,000 Pounds			
Butter	155,162	119,946	118,918
Cheese, total natural.....	798,307	818,633	846,591
Eggs, frozen	14,652	21,261	22,763
Poultry, total frozen	1,007,260	1,173,430	1,164,059
Chicken.....	741,145	811,100	763,974
Turkey.....	260,594	360,379	398,094
Fruits, frozen.....	1,239,540	1,337,494	1,244,194
Fruit Juices, frozen.....	1,079,964	1,420,327	1,459,738
Vegetables, total frozen.....	2,221,392	2,558,188	2,351,888
Potatoes, total frozen.....	1,012,355	1,212,093	1,097,763
Meats, total red	961,556	1,017,271	1,061,137
Beef, total frozen.....	482,509	474,926	481,741
Pork, total frozen.....	458,665	512,763	549,021

Data for this report are collected from public and private refrigerated warehouses storing commodities for 30 days or more. Stocks in space owned or leased by the Armed Forces are excluded. Food stocks held under bond are included in the storage data.

GOAT INVENTORY

JANUARY 1, 2009

All goat inventory in Colorado on January 1, 2009, totaled 43,300 head, down 11 percent from a year earlier. Meat and all other goats accounted for 34,000 head compared with 39,000 on January 1, 2008. Milk goats totaled 8,300 head, up from 8,000 head a year ago, and Angora goats were down to 1,000 head from 1,400 head last year.

All goat inventory in the United States on January 1, 2009, totaled 3.07 million head, down 2 percent from 2008. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.54 million head down 2 percent from 2008. All market goats and kids totaled 528,000 head, up 1 percent from a year ago. On January 1, 2009 meat and all other goats totaled 2.55 million head, down 2 percent from 2008. Milk goat inventory increased 4 percent to 335,000 head while angora goats were down 10 percent totaling 185,000 head. The 2008 kid crop totaled 1.96 million head for all goats, down 2 percent from 2007. Mohair production in the United States during 2008 was 1.18 million pounds. Goats and kids clipped totaled 193,500 head. Average weight per clip was 6.10 pounds. Mohair price was \$3.31 per pound with a value of 3.91 million dollars.

UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the Worldwide Web at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>

- Feb. 13 - Turkey Hatchery
- Feb. 13 - Potato Stocks
- Feb. 19 - Milk Production
- Feb. 20 - Cold Storage - Monthly
- Feb. 20 - Cold Storage - Annual
- Feb. 20 - Cattle on Feed
- Feb. 20 - Livestock Slaughter
- Feb. 26 - Trout Production
- Feb. 27 - Chickens and Eggs - Annual
- Feb. 27 - Chickens and Eggs - Monthly
- Feb. 27 - Agricultural Prices

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